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terested in the prosperity of the Colony,  
which the reckless gambling in time bargains

interested in the prosperity of the Colony, which the reckless gaming in time largely diminishes. It is not to be supposed that a generous desire to grant the malcontents every chance, no doubt influenced some to give their votes in favour of the adjournment, and as those opposing the continuance of the Ordinance will in no manner be deterred from their course, the more fresh arguments it will not do for the friends of the measure to rest content with what has already been done, as the reasons put forward on their side of the debate in three weeks hence be partially forgotten; they must find more men and more reasons to oppose the Ordinance, and the Government on the other hand, victory is already assured. We desire, however, the victory to be a triumphant one, so that opposition may be silenced for a generation at least, for should the law be altered, then would another period of depression and sorrow for the Colony begin, the end of which no man could foretell, but the possibility of which will be regarded by all with deepest concern.

The system on which Government co-

to be permitted to touch the same man subject," he says. "Happy is the person who falls to the outright, for if he drops wounded, even if his companions succeed in carrying him off, he probably dies a lingering death, as there is absolutely no provision for the wounded. The only way of ambulances or surgical appliances is to send the wounded to the hospital." Dr. WYTHEMAN MYERS, of the David Manson Memorial Hospital, says some years ago set on foot a movement to attempt to provide an Ambulance Medical Service for China, but the encouragement he received must have been slender, for it would seem to have made no great progress, and has certainly not been started at Fongshue where it most urgently needed at the present time. The truth is that no reform long finds favour with Chinese officials which constitutes an innovation on established custom, and even where some official with more heart than money than his colleagues does initiate such undertakings, the admitted failure of his work is usually met by his successors. Hence it comes to pass in China that the way of reforms is hard, and the path of progress often terminates in an unexpected complication.

**JAPANESE AND CHINESE**

In his report on the trade of Hyogo for the year 1891 Mr. Consul BERNIER gives some interesting particulars concerning one of the numerous new exports Japanese have been sending to China. We refer to the matting trade. The Japanese used fine floor matting long before the country was opened to foreign trade, but not until quite recently have they laid themselves out to produce an article that could find a general sale abroad. The matting formerly made was too fine and comparatively expensive to meet

In his report on the trade of Hyogo for

presumably Tsuist. These facts seem to lead to the final confirmation to the reported understanding with France. That Power verbally has promised to support China and naturally nourishes a strong resentment against Japan. The Government of Peking for the encouragement given to Chinese troops on their first lance to enter Manchuria, has been very much gratified. The Government and its enter upon active hostilities, it is not likely they would refuse to join Russia in concerting means to stop the incursion of Chinese bands and carry the war into the enemy's country. The Chinese Government will therefore do well to take advantage of this opportunity and to be prepared to launch into a war with two great European Powers. Should they, on the other hand, judge discretion to be the better part of valour, and quietly ignore what is going on in Turkestan, the Russians will gradually encroach until they have covered the whole of the north of China, and will be in a position to do this all. If the Russian Government found that China had no stomach for a fight they would eventually pick a quarrel with her and advance their frontier south. Mongolia is ripe year ready to fall into Russia's lap, and when the Siberian railway is completed, the use of the Chinese Government will be very small. There is ample cause in the present situation to cause the Peking Government well founded disquiet, and they cannot too early take note of the coming difficulties and consider how to meet them. Their policy towards the other Treaty Powers has, in the meantime, been very successful. They have secured the support of the United States, and the United States support. China's relations with foreign Powers and treatment of their subjects are citizens leave much to be desired, and which she permits her officials to systematically violate treaty provisions and endeavour to make the Chinese Government the cause of the misgovernment, persuasion, they are naturally not inclined to interfere to arrest the Russian advance. Even Great Britain, interested though she undoubtedly is in Manchuria, has not been able to prevent the Japanese aggression in Central Asia, would not be prepared to risk China's battle for her, and would be very likely for Peking to expect that assistance.

The first eastern section of this work, covering completion and a large expansion

vocation and position of shareholders in the colony that it was natural they should not favor the Bill; they were interested parties and were properly in a position to give their views on the subject. The Chairman characterized the utterances of this Chamber when called upon to express itself on such a subject. As to his working of the Bill I consider it has so far been distinctly beneficial to the colony, and that the shareholders in the light of day, and of two years' experience in Hongkong would not be suffering from an unprecedented state of depression now prevalent. The Bill has only been in force long enough time, under ordinary circumstances, to judge of the effect of any measure. But before and since it came into operation the position of affairs in this colony has been such as to make it impossible for us to judge fairly of the working now. With further experience of any such modification of the Bill may presently be found necessary. At the present time, however, I think that any modification of it is to be deprecated. If any one is opposed to the continuance of the Bill on the ground that it interferes with freedom of contract, I consider that it is not in the least likely to be in another light if I call their attention to the Hatch or anti-option bill, which is now before the Chamber, and which is a gambling option feature, and which has recently passed by a large majority. What the true effect of an enormous majority. What the true effect of the colony seems to me to require now is quiet unobtrusive working by the introduction of any measure likely to bring about a more permanent and healthy state of affairs. The gambling spirit of the years 1889 and 1890, of which I am sure that during the existing financial depression from which the colony suffers, is not likely to be repeated. I therefore desire to move the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Chamber it is undesirable at present to make any change in the Ordinance 15 of 1891, known as the Gambling Bill." The Chairman:—The Chairman is glad if you who should be Secretary of the Chamber to keep a record of the members who vote for and against it for the information of the Government, should be so good as to do so.

Mr. J. S. LAPRAKE.—Mr. Chairman, to consider the action that has been proposed, I consider at present that what the Colony requires is to perpetuate the existing law, and to leave the Legislature to deal with the same as may be inopportune. Later on perhaps say the

**HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

**THE SHARE ORDINANCE.**

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on the 24th August at the City Hall, Hong Kong, for the purpose of considering the Share Ordinance No. 10 of 1891, which is entitled "An Ordinance to amend the law in respect to the sale of shares in Companies registered under the Hongkong Ordinances 1862 to 1875 in other than the Straits Settlements." The chair was occupied by Mr. A. G. Wood, and amongst those present were Messrs. J. H. Wilson, W. H. Hoppling, Carl Jackson, H. B. Joseph, N. E. and Hon. T. H. Whitehead (Chairman), J. B. Edouard, Messrs. Mosses, Granville Shanks, J. C. de Silva, J. R. Gillies, F. A. de la Vigne, Walter T. Arnold, J. Macgregor, S. C. Bird, C. J. Hindle, P. Greig, Paul Jordan, H. J. Scott, J. M. L. Brown, J. D. Macdonald, J. W. Ingham, J. H. Cox, G. de Cheneport, Harbord, Smith, A. McCannachie, J. S. Lupton, E. Smyth, H. Potts, H. Cox, Ray, T. Ross, G. Stewart, G. de la Vigne, and representatives of several Chinese houses.

THE SHARE ORDINANCE.

year from now, the subject might be advantageously discussed again, but if then I think that as regards the share of all credit Companies, the Government will have a good host here at present in England (applause).

Hon. E. L. BELLINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, we have in regard to Kew's Share-Bill one of the well known, having appeared in print in a letter to the Press on the subject, and in which it is no doubt intended to be used to recapitulate the points I then adduced in its favour. Therefore, I will confine myself to a few remarks. Accordingly, I will show that during the period it has been in force the Bill has done good, that it has been a benefit to the shareholders of the Company, and I shall be sorry to regret that any one member of this Chamber should think it right to ask for its repeal. It is not a piece of gratuitous legislation, because it does not protect speculation, but it does protect the honest shareholder by his being on the turf. It is simply restrictive legislation to shares that are in existence. Our

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reduced prices without violating single-domicile  
the bank's policy of not selling to the public.  
had the means to get up and say that he was pre-  
pared to book those transactions. The "bears"  
had their own way, low quotations were not  
on the creditors, and they were masters of the  
market. The bank's policy was to keep the  
necessitating the giving of numbers restricted  
these speculators to selling only shares that  
in existence, thus curtailing their powers to  
the market. The bank's policy was to keep the  
floating shares or shares without numbers  
the bona fide shares thrown on the market  
by the banks, having been supplemented  
the bank's policy was to keep the market  
supply and the strain on the very limited de-  
mand then prevailing would have been to  
great. The consequence would have been prob-  
ably a panic and a more serious depression  
than the one that actually transpired.  
Under these circumstances the bill has in-  
ferred a loss on the inhabitants by ar-  
resting such misery. Even in the *faux* quon-  
dary of the market, the bank's policy was to

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perishable articles: they might attract the attention of the natives, and the goods might be lost for a short time because it is consumable and liable to vanish from the face of the earth. The Bill having proved itself to be a blessing, the Government have decided to continue the same, and it has been done a great part of the commerce of depression we have gone through would have been averted. Members of the Chamber of Commerce belonging to the shipping companies, and the mercantile community, have kindly permitted me to call on them within certain limits the value of business will be contracted, and as a consequence their income will diminish in the same ratio. I have endeavored to restore the business in shares is required, and though palpably their collection of brokers' commissions will be small the collection will be of a more permanent character. I have endeavored to get from them those who were in the habit of collecting in the rainy days of the past year. The wealth of this Colony is mostly in the hands of a few individuals of the same kind. We have it in funded property, and in the hands of a few individuals.

to chafe. There is surely a man here who can lay his hand on \$100,000 at a moment's notice. In fact, this is a large sum for business purposes. It is a large sum for the purpose of an exchequer. Any undue pressure brought to bear upon it is sure to depreciate vested interests. It is, therefore, the duty of those who have the permanent stake in the Colony to see that the Government does not resort to such fortuitous shares thrown on the market to solve its burden it. (A applause.)

**MR. GRANTVILLE SMITH**—During the session of the Council requested by several members of this Chamber who are largely interested in business and property in this Colony to meet something at this meeting. I suppose they are all here. I am glad to see that I am not the only one I could myself be persuaded of the growth and greater manifestation. I suppose we must consider that we are now together to look at some action as a Government. I am glad to see the meeting. His Excellency Governor, to inform him as to the working of the Chamber.

prescription, whilst after careful discussion a consuetudine was proposed to meet a want which had been felt by the colony some twelve months ago. We have been visited by one of those periodical human epidemics which recur at intervals of a greater or less duration and are lighted up by various forms of leprosy, diphtheria, typhus, cholera, &c. Our reproductive energy was as it were altogether diverted and a universal spirit of gambling reigned in the colony, equalling, you are well assured, that which prevailed in London during the reign of the Emperor Constantine and elsewhere it is in the Colony in which we dwell and elsewhere has been so consistently opposed to this spirit of gambling in all its forms and entirely opposite to the feelings which we wish to cherish for the benefit of the Empire. I cannot believe that this inquiry from the Honorable the Governor is dictated from the slightest degree by misgiving to this Ordinance, rather than due to the feelings which we wish to cherish among our members. It may be, perhaps mistakenly, that the interests of the colony are jeopardised by the existence of the bill. It

The wildest schemes were brought rapidly forward and matured. To keep was altogether forgotten and replaced by an insane desire to get out. The man who had been the most useful was used at all. Diligence, patience and fidelity were regarded as obsolete and the old-fashioned discipline of business had become the rule of expediency. The man who had been the most useful was used at all. Diligence, patience and fidelity were regarded as obsolete and the old-fashioned discipline of business had become the rule of expediency. The man who had been the most useful was used at all. Diligence, patience and fidelity were regarded as obsolete and the old-fashioned discipline of business had become the rule of expediency.

coloured nation, by which our hopes have been buoyed up, collapsed. *Vain* the dream. How now was the perilous descent to the free world, and the free world, to be accomplished? This was indeed a most critical moment for the colony and all those interested in it, and its property. This bill was the parasite which had been growing on the life of the colony, and now the pain which most of us who have supervised and the widows and orphans of the French Revolution, which seemed unavoidable. In this address on behalf of the British Association, the speaker said: "It is an absolute fact that the British Association and other institutions of business have so far been the pressure on their time that many important transactions of business are not taken." "Everyone knows that many of our ordinary transactions of business are not taken, and that the business of the bank and office. I have seen of the beneficent action of this Ordinance."

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gulating, as the report of the committee on the subject in a speech before the Legislature would be it can do one thing and it has done one thing. It is known to many well-informed men in this country that the committee on the subject: we require some drag upon the process which speculation in this place attains. The bill simply does that in the most gentle and unobtrusive manner, and without any and palliative influence. An honorable member of the Legislative Council, at the meeting on the 19th June to which I have referred, endeavored to throw discredit upon the bill, and to show that it was not the intention of the Freeman's Act in London. I think I know the history of that Act in London. Mr. Sharp here related the circumstances under which it was passed, and the intention of passing the Freeman's Act. Continuing to say:—The Hon. Mr. Whitbread has told me that: the Act is a dead letter and is not at all generally known. He then said that it was a bad trade, to shut out the

States? Amongst a certain class in the United States it is deemed quite admissible quite proper for a man to pitch another man overboard, and to tell the man who sells a bunk that which he does not possess lays himself open to the strongest possible temptation to commit a crime, namely, to tell the man who has bought of him that which he knows to be untrue, that what may happen to the bank. If I tell you a house in Queen's Road I give you the number; if I sell you a house I give you the key. In the United States the law of public policy has referred to the selling of cars to arrive. The rate in such cases is to be at least the port of departure and the port of arrival. I think it is a very reasonable thing to say that the law of public policy is not a position of that business to which Francis has so eloquently referred in which the ordinary pre-conditions of business are forfeited. I think it is a very reasonable thing to say that if you do not you may dispose of those things to some one who does not wish.

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long argument to support it. The various conditions of the Colony for the past year have been so exceptional, that we cannot agree with Mr. SHARP that the time has been too short for the formation of any adequate and correct idea of the working of the Ordinance. Several of the speakers, including Mr. SHARP himself, brought forward arguments to show that in no more than a few years the Colonists would derive great benefit to the Colony and that the Ordinance would have been much worse had it not been in force, and we are constrained to believe that almost every uninterested party will agree in thinking so. It has not been shewn to us and we fail to discover where any less has resulted, except that the Colonists, who have been so long in the less because it was unproductive. The only argument that was brought forward when the Bill was first under discussion was that it would interfere with the purchase and sale of shares between this and London. We are unaware that it has done so, but even if this may be regarded as a benefit rather than a disadvantage, it is a very small one. Speculations can only be induced by the prospect of large capital, of whom there are very few here who can engage in them, and if any profits were made they were the men who made them and of course they made them at the cost of the smaller operators. We must view this subject in the interest of the public, and not of the few who are engaged in the purchase or sale of the still numerous brokers, for although the ranks of these latter have been much thinned we have still twice as many as the community can judiciously support. Several have gained much better position by leaving the ranks, and we should all be pleased to see more of them bettering their condition.

Mr. Gyorx denies that quotations were given to influence the market, but surely it is known to everyone that small transactions in real or nominal, are continually taking place for no other purpose. As Mr. BELZINZAR pointed out, the "bear" has here things going all their own way, whereas in large transactions the "bull" has the effect of the "bear." "Bears" are pretty easy. Of course the fluctuate there from day to day, but here the "bear" gives the "bull" a chance to let only that he may worry him more in the future, and hence the greater necessity for a new law here than in London.

destruction which seemed unavoidable. The fact that the Ordinance is now much stronger than it was when the Bill was first introduced, and the doubt still lingered in the mind of anyone as to the motive the introducer had in bringing it in it must now be dispelled by the remarks of Mr. GRANVILLE SMITH and the able and dignified speech of Mr. JAMES H. COOPER, the Chairman at the last annual meeting of the C-Club were universally condemned. The time as not only in the worst taste but as, by attributing motives of which he has no proof, defeating its own motive, whatever it may have been. The suggestion that record should be kept of the members with a view to the detection of those guilty of considerable vice, as the object of it is, is a gross insult to the members of the meeting is to guide the GOVERNORS in forming

an opinion as to the working of the measure, and it can hardly be supposed that His Excellency will give the same weight to the vote of a sharebroker as he will to that of another member, and he is not likely to propose the repeal of the Ordinance unless the voice of the community is against it by a very decided majority. It must also be remembered that there is a much larger number outside the Chamber of Commerce than in it who are interested in investments in joint stock companies, while all are

But we think it is only necessary to point out the way the system works to induce His Excellency the Governor to institute inquiries into the matter. Sir WILLIAM ROBERTSON, who has been the main champion for the present system in the Legislative Council, is a man of fair play, but his attention should be called to the terrible waste of the public funds which goes on in the letting of contracts. The system of letting them out should be before long put to an end. The Government might still be advertised in the *Gazette* for them, but they should also be advertised in the newspapers, and the lowest bidder of the contracts should be sent in designs and tenders for the public buildings. For an actual contract has been made for the erection of the new Central Market—and it would seem that only the foundation is being proceeded with—then this course might be usefully adopted with the other public buildings. The system of getting the completed drawing for the term of office, and at some reasonable outlay. It threatens, at present, to prove as long an and as costly a job as the Victoria College, which is a standing monument of the folly of allowing the Survey Department to construct buildings, which they seem unable to execute properly. The Director of Public Works may succeed in keeping the roads, drains, and bridges in a state of repair, though even on these a great economy might be exercised, both by revising the contracts and insisting on the employment of contractors who could be compelled to use proper material. In Mr. Pritchard's opinion, the Government might find that they would wear for a reasonable time, now they are no sooner laid or patched than they commence to show signs of disintegration, due to the fact that there is no sufficient time used. No wonder the contractors grow rich! The macadamised roads, too, though well laid so far as firmness goes, are so soft that they are a constant surface dressing. The thin layer of gravel laid over the granite is quickly washed away, and the road becomes rough and broken. In former days a certain layer of disintegrated granite is a chief stage when it has a strong tendency to bind was used, and the result was a hard firm road, neither dusty nor soft. The same material, available the same result cannot still be achieved.

The cause of the war with the Formosa  
aborigines, which first broke out last

tugging and is still being carried on by half-trained men, by the Chinese troops near Tokoham, is stated by Mr. HOLLANDER, U.S.A., Consul, in his report on the trade of Tientsin for 1891, to be characteristic of what he saw at Amoy.

And so it certainly has been since the following effect—

A short-sighted official was "anxious to find favor with his superiors by offering a reward of \$2000 for the head of every savage brought in."

"The ignorant countrymen were misled by this offer," says the writer. Some Chinese, carried away by their desire to obtain this unusually large reward, lost no time in entrapping a few heads they then claimed as, for instance, those belonging to some friendly natives who had been taken prisoner by the rebels; others, more frantically, against the treacherous policy, at once threw off their allegiance to the Chinese Government and joined the other savages with whom the Chinese were carrying on the usual desultory warfare.

The result was that thousands of soldiers were drafted from various regions to the frontier, till from 6,000, to 7,000 troops were engaged warring to find their hardy and intrepid foes, who fight from the jungle, where the Chinese cannot get them.

In such cases the clothing entirely protects the body from restraint. The lighter has been

practical people, and seeing that the cheap labouring method in Canton has a large sale in the United States they have set to work to produce something that will compete with it. The result is the production of an article of considerable success in Russia and pattern to the United States, and is being sold at 100 per cent. Mr. Everett said that the export for 1891 was nearly double that of the previous year, and the demand from foreign countries is reported to be largely in excess of the present production. The export has grown gradually from a value of £89 in 1886 to £104,360 in 1891. This is a truly amazing development, and is due to the fact that the export of this material is universally used for the same purposes by the Japanese and the chief producing districts are situated in the provinces of Bizen, Bitchu, and Bingo, on the borders of the Inland Sea, and Bungo and Chugoku, Kishiu, and Owari. In June and July the crop is gathered in, and in June and July the manufacture of the new grass, commencing in August, continues actively until early in February, during years, during which internal disturbances are made. "An interesting feature in the making of this material is the use of a loom, the introduction of a warp of cotton threads, numbering in the finest qualities some 36,000 to the yard, thus producing a fabric which is almost as soft and pliable as clothing, and in the cheaper kinds, however, naturally "grown heap is used for this purpose," and the difference in the finish is at once apparent. The material is made in a variety of patterns, and is made of all home manufactures, and of rather complicated and intricate patterns; and they are worked in the foot of the operator, two or three persons being required for each machine. Aniline dyes are used in colouring, and such is the skill with which this work is done that the material is made in a variety of shades in any number of rolls in the same order. The beauty and variety of the designs offered to the foreign purchaser is somewhat surprising, considering that to be made may still be considered to be in infancy, one foreign firm having stated that they sent away over 4,000 different

yards in length by one yard wide vary, according to quality and workmanship, from \$3 to \$15, the principal demand running on intermediate qualities, costing from \$8 to \$10. It is rather amusing to find that Consul remarking that the Japanese have been "very successful in the sale of their large and profitable trade, with little fear of injurious competition from Canton mattsing, which is altogether a different article." To some extent this is true. There is little fear of competition from Canton, but not because the Canton mattsing is altogether a different article. Indeed, so far as the Cantonese manufacturers can make it at the price, a very similar article and we have no doubt that latter will in time find the Japanese competition no joke. It is true the export of mattsing from Canton in 1931 showed a considerable over-run, the previous year having been \$1,138,000, but that was due in no small degree to the fact that under the McKinley Tariff Chinese mattsing escaped duty, and we feel convinced that to improve the Canton manufacturers' material and their goods both in design and finish they will eventually lose the American market. The Japanese mattsing, on the other hand, is evenly woven, carefully finished, and can be laid down to fit exactly and lie flat under the creases and inequalities which here and there disfigure the Chinese mattsing. The Canton manufacturers had better watch out and send some of their employees to study the Japanese method of weaving. They must allow the industry, like the straw hat trade and the tea, export, to gradually decline. The markets for good mattsing are

war into the enemy's country. The Chinese Government will, therefore, do well to go slowly and count the cost before plunging into a war with two great powers. Such a war would be a disaster to China, and, judged objectively, it is the better part of valour, and quietly ignore what is going on in Turkestan, the Russians will gradually encroach until they have recovered the whole of the territory retroceded in 1881. Nor is this all. If the Russian Government found that China had no stomach for a fight they would eventually pick a quarrel with her and advance their frontier south. Mongolia is ripe now ready to fall into Russian hands, and when that happens the Russian Government will have no easy matter to prevent Manchuria from falling into their hands.

There is ample scope in the present situation to dispute the Peking Government will found to cause, and they cannot too early take note of the coming difficulties and consider how to meet them. Their policy towards the other Treaty Powers has, in the meantime, not been of a character to beguot sympathy or to attract support. China's relations with foreign Powers and treaties with them are not such as to be desired, and with which she permits her officials to systematically violate treaty provisions and endeavor to make the country too hot to hold foreigners. The missionary persuasion, they are naturally not inclined to interfere to arrest the Russian advance. Even Great Britain, interested though she undoubtedly is in Manchuria, is not likely to interfere with Chinese aggression in Central Asia, would not be prepared to risk China's battle for her, and would be likely for Peking to expect no direct assistance.

**THE PRAYA RECLAMATION.**

The first extensive section of this work is an unearthing campaign and a large expense of money has been incurred by the Government. The Praya Wall, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, at the house west of it up to Lee Hom Si Street where it adjoins on the Praya. Under the wall was discovered a large quantity of old bricks. E. Bowdler, C.E., the work has progressed steadily on until now the great head part of the Hall, which was formerly lapped by the waves, is exposed. It will be some time before the wall might be pierced in front of the Bank. The work was formally inaugurated on the 2nd April 1880, by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and Devon, who then laid the foundation stone of the new building. Till some months later, a few small things were apparent, the water simply receding the keels of material and showing no signs of being raised from its former level. At the end of the year, at least fifty evidences of gradual reclamation of the patch marked off began to show, and thereupon the work was continued more widely, especially where the wall had been built up to high water mark. Presently the space assumed the appearance of miniature inland sea, in which crowds of boats came and went, and the tide of people coming and going, and rapidly diminishing the area still under water. At the present time the whole reclaimed area is filled in though the water is still visible here and there. However, will be a matter of weeks at most.

To those of our readers at a distance a few details of the extent of this section of the land may be given. It lies between the Victoria and the Murray Wharfs on the east to Lee Hom Si Street on the west, which thoroughfare will be continued to the new Praya Wall. The total length of the wall is about 1,600 feet long, or roughly 102 acres. The distance from the face of the old sea wall to the face of the new sea wall is 573 feet on the west side and 590 feet on the east side. There were used for reclaiming the land no less than 140,000 cubic yards (70,000 tons) of rubble stones in foundations of sea wall, drains, and other structures; and the sea bed itself for filling in the ground. The wall has been solidly built of granite with concrete backing, and the drains, laid on a rubble foundation of granite, are covered with concrete slabs of granite. The earth used was nearly all brought from the sea bed, and the rubble stones, mostly boats, the small balance being builders' rubbish thrown in by permission of the engineer. It is estimated that the cost of the work would have amounted to the sum of £1,000,000. Ground will be carried straight down to the

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failed to point out that over 30 per cent of the members present were shareholders, who, of course, were not entitled to vote, and even then the majority of votes recorded against it was only seven. With regard to that way desiring to understand it in that way, I am not at all sure that in any way that it was natural they should not favor it; they were interested parties and were properly in a position to give that deliberation. I am not at all sure that the members of this Chamber when called upon to express their opinion on this subject, as to the working of the Bill I consider it has so far been distinct and clear. I am not at all sure that on the light of day one or two years earlier Hongkong would not be suffering from such an unprecedented state of depression as it is now suffering from. I am not at all sure that in force for about one year, a short time, under ordinary circumstances, would judge of the effect of any measure. But be it what it may, I am not at all sure that the position of affairs in this colony has been altogether abnormal, and therefore I consider it quite impossible for us to judge fairly of the effect of any measure. I am not at all sure that any modification of the Bill may be found necessary; new measures are said to be perfect. At the present time, however, I think it is better to leave the Bill as it is. If any one is opposed to the continuance of the Bill on the ground that it interferes with the freedom of contract it may perhaps induce them to consider the question of the amendment of the Bill to the Hatch or anti-option bill, which is a more enormous majority. What the truth of the colony seems to me to require now is quietude and stability to the regulation of the currency, and I think that is the smallest degree of the furthest west of the gambling spirit of the years 1859 and 1860, and I considered that during the existing financial depression, it is not an opportune time for change, and therefore I deem to move the following resolution:—  
“That in the opinion of this Chamber—  
“Resolved, That the Bill now before the Chamber, Ordinance No. 18 of 1891, known as the Share Bill, be referred to the Committee on the subject of gambling, and that the members who vote for and against it be informed of the Government, should require it.”

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